

Joseph and Mary Ann Lamont House
208 Browning Avenue
Llyswen Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5871

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
138-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JOSEPH AND MARY ANN LAMONT HOUSE

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Location: 208 Browning Avenue

Date of Erection: ca. 1949-51

Description: A large lawn surrounds this one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled residence covered with white masonite siding. The front door and a six-over-six-light sash placed just off center on the facade are sheltered by a small, hipped-roof porch. Dark red cloth awnings cover flanking windows. A two-car garage is connected to the house's northeast gable end by a small breezeway. A cut stone chimney and a shed-roofed, screened porch are on the opposite gable end. A shed dormer across the full width of the rear facade allows a larger upstairs space. A patio behind the house and garage has a low curved brick wall and an arbor and provides the private exterior space within this property that has been manicured to be a very self-conscious public display.

The large, corner lot has been delineated by a flower bed that extends along the street curb. Low, red-brick piers linked by a white-painted chain are spaced along each side of the driveway. Red roses trained on trellises surround each garage door. The dark-red asphalt roof shingles and window awnings anchor this element of the color scheme. A flagpole with an American flag is set at the house's south corner. Shrubs placed close against the house are trimmed into perfectly rounded egg and bun shapes. Annuals are planted in a cut-stone planter on the porch, in a flower bed by the front walkway, and in a small, round bed with a birdbath in the corner of the lot. Even the criss-cross pattern made by the lawnmower is figured into the effect of this quintessential, post-World War II suburban property in which house and lawn are integrated in an overall design presented as a personal statement for public appreciation.

History: The Altoona Suburban Home Company first sold this large lot in 1907 for \$500. Henry and Stella Wertz of 109 Browning Ave. bought it in 1923 for \$850, apparently as an investment property. They sold it to Joseph Lamont, manager of Roxy Beverage Company, in 1949, and this house appears as a new dwelling on the 1951 tax rolls with an assessed value of \$2,200. The Lamonts raised their children in this house, and live here still.

Sources: Map: 1963. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 180/318, 306/183, 610/438, 611/60, 816/518.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.